



U.S. Marine First Lieutenant Matthew H. Hilton

First Lieutenant Matthew H. Hilton is a five-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps and is currently serving as part of the *Why We Serve* speakers program. He recently returned from assignment in Iraq and is speaking to groups around the country about his personal experiences as an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Company Advisor.

Hilton joined the Marine Corps in March 2004 after graduating from George Mason University. His first assignment was to Marine Aircraft Group 39 as the Intelligence Watch Officer in Desert Talon II. He later deployed to Al Asad, Al Anbar, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as the Assistant Intelligence Officer for Marine Aircraft Group 16. During his deployment, Hilton was assigned as the Intelligence Officer for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774, responsible for planning intelligence missions and generating daily intelligence updates.

In October 2005, Hilton volunteered to deploy to Iraq for a second tour as the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Company Advisor to the 7th Iraqi Army Division. He was sent to Camp Fallujah, Iraq in January 2006 and spent three months building and supplying the newly formed division. During this period, Hilton also served as a vehicle commander, driver and gunner for over 100 combat patrol convoys in support of various missions. Hilton's next assignment was to Camp Blue Diamond, Al Anbar, Iraq, where he participated in several intelligence gathering operations and trained other companies in basic intelligence collection techniques. During this time, he also served as the senior U.S. military advisor to an Iraqi Military Police platoon, providing guidance on camp security, hygiene, proper personnel searches, vehicle searches, accountability of troops and supply and logistical support from its partner unit.

Throughout his various deployments, Hilton also acted as a Public Affairs advisor, language coordinator, interpreter handler, Assistant Military Police advisor, and a Headquarters Support Company assistant.

Hilton is a native of Fairfax, Va. and enjoys traveling, triathlons, surfing, skydiving, scuba diving, running, rock climbing, swimming, and biking.

Hilton's decorations include the Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal and National Defense Service Medal.